

PRA

PRACTISER. *n. f.* [from *practise*.]
 1. One that practises any thing; one that does any thing habitually.
 We will, in the principles of the politician, shew how little efficacy they have to advance the *practiser* of them to the things they aspire to. *South's Sermons.*
 2. One who prescribes medical treatment.
 Sweet *practiser*, thy physick I will try,
 That ministers thine own death if I die. *Shakespeare.*
 I had reasoned myself into an opinion, that the use of physicians, unless in some acute disease, was a great venture, and that their greatest *practisers* practised least upon themselves. *Temple.*
PRACTITIONER. *n. f.* [from *practise*.]
 1. He who is engaged in the actual exercise of any art.
 The author exhorts all gentlemen *practitioners* to exercise themselves in the transitory.
 I do not know a more universal and unnecessary mistake among the clergy, but especially the younger *practitioners*. *Sw.*
 2. One who uses any fly or dangerous arts.
 There is some papistical *practitioners* among you. *Whitgift.*
 3. One who does any thing habitually.
 He must be first an exercised, thorough-paced *practitioner* of these vices himself. *South's Sermons.*
PRÆCOGNITA. *n. f.* [Latin.] Things previously known in order to understanding something else; thus the structure of the human body is one of the *præcognita* of physick.
 Either all knowledge does not depend on certain *præcognita* or general maxims, called principles, or else these are principles. *Locke.*
PRAGMA'TICK. *adj.* [πράγματικα; *pragmaticque*, Fr.]
PRAGMA'TICAL. *adj.* Meddling; impertinently busy; assuming business without leave or invitation.
 No sham so gross, but it will pass upon a weak man that is *pragmatical* and inquisitive. *L'Estrange.*
 Common estimation puts an ill character upon *pragmatick* meddling people.
 He understands no more of his own affairs, than a child; he has got a sort of a *pragmatical* filly jade of a wife, that pretends to take him out of my hands. *Arbutnot.*
 The fellow grew so *pragmatical*, that he took upon him the government of my whole family. *Arbutnot.*
 Such a backwardness there was among good men to engage with an usurping people, and *pragmatical* ambitious orators.
 They are *pragmatical* enough to stand on the watch tower, but who assigned them the post? *Swift.*
PRAGMA'TICALLY. *adv.* [from *pragmatical*.] Meddlingly; impertinently.
PRAGMA'TICALNESS. *n. f.* [from *pragmatical*.] The quality of intermeddling without right or call.
PRAISE. *n. f.* [prijs, Dutch.]
 1. Renown; commendation; fame; honour; celebrity.
 Best of fruits, whose taste has taught
 The tongue, not made for speech, to speak thy *praise*. *Milt.*
 Lucan, content with *praise*, may lie at ease
 In costly grots and marble palaces;
 But to poor Bassus what avails a name,
 To starve on compliments and empty fame. *Dryden.*
 2. Glorification; tribute of gratitude; laud.
 He hath put a new song in my mouth, even *praise* unto our God. *Psal. xl. 3. Milton.*
 To God glory and *praise*.
 3. Ground or reason of praise.
 Praiseworthy actions are by thee embrac'd;
 And 'tis my *praise* to make thy praises last. *Dryden.*
TO PRAISE. *v. a.* [prijsen, Dutch.]
 1. To commend; to applaud; to celebrate.
 Will God incense his ire
 For such a petty trespass, and not *praise*
 Rather your dauntless virtue. *Milton.*
 We *praise* not Hector, though his name we know
 Is great in arms; 'tis hard to *praise* a foe. *Dryden.*
 2. To glorify in worship.
 The shepherds returned, glorifying and *praising* God for all the things that they had heard and seen. *Luke ii. 20.*
 One generation shall *praise* thy works to another, and declare thy mighty works. *Psal. cxlv. 4.*
 Their touch'd their golden harps, and hymning *prais'd* God and his works. *Milton.*
PRAYSEFUL. *adj.* [praise and full.] Laudable; commendable. Not now in use.
 Of whose high praise, and *praiseful* bliss,
 Goodness the pen, heaven the paper is. *Sidney.*
 He ordain'd a lady for his prize,
 Generally *praiseful*, fair and young, and skill'd in housewiferies. *Chapman's Iliad.*
PRAISER. *n. f.* [from *praise*.] One who praises; an applauder; a commender.
 We men and *praisers* of men should remember, that if we have such excellencies, it is reason to think them excellent creatures, of whom we are. *Sidney.*

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Forgive me, if my verse but say you are
 A Sidney: but in that extend as far
 As loudest *praisers*. *B. Johnson's Epig.*
 Turn to God, who knows I think this true,
 And useth oft, when such a heart mislays,
 To make it good; for such a *praiser* prays. *Donne.*
PRAISEWORTHY. *adj.* [praise and worthy.] Commendable; deserving praise.
 The Tritonian goddess having heard
 Her blazed fame, which all the world had fill'd,
 Came down to prove the truth, and due reward
 For her *praiseworthy* workmanship to yield. *Spenser.*
 Since men have left to do *praiseworthy* things,
 Most think all praises flatteries; but truth brings
 That found, and that authority with her name,
 As to be rais'd by her is only fame. *Ben. Johnson.*
 Firmus, who seized upon Egypt, was so far *praiseworthy*, that he encouraged trade. *Arbutnot on Cato.*
PRAME. *n. f.* A flat bottomed boat.
TO PRANCE. *v. a.* [pranken, Dutch, to set one's self to show.]
 1. To spring and bound in high mettle.
 Here's no fantastick mask, nor dance,
 But of our kids that frisk and *prance*;
 Nor wars are seen,
 Unless upon the green,
 Two harmless lambs are butting one the other. *Wotton.*
 With mud fill'd high, the rumbling cart draws near,
 Now rule thy *prancing* steeds, lac'd charioteer. *Gay.*
 Far be the spirit of the chase from them,
 To spring the fence, to rein the *prancing* steed. *Thomson.*
 2. To ride gallantly and ostentatiously.
 The horses hoofs were broken by means of the *prancings*, the *prancings* of their mighty oaks. *Judges v. 22.*
 I see
 Th' insulting tyrant, *prancing* o'er the field,
 Strow'd with Rome's citizens, and drench'd in slaughter,
 His horses hoofs wet with patrician blood. *Addison.*
 3. To move in a warlike or showy manner.
 We should neither have meat to eat, nor manufacture to cloathe us, unless we could *prance* about in coats of mail, or eat brass. *Swift.*
TO PRANK. *v. a.* [pranken, Dutch.] To decorate; to dress or adjust to ostentation.
 Some *prank* their ruffs, and others timely dight
 Their gay attire. *Fairy Queen.*
 In wine and meats she slow'd above the bank,
 And in excess exceeded her own might,
 In sumptuous tire the joy'd herself to *prank*,
 But of her love too lavish. *Fairy Queen.*
 These are tribunes of the people,
 The tongues o' th' common mouth: I despise them:
 For they do *prank* them in authority
 Against all noble sufferance. *Shakespeare.*
 Your high self,
 The gracious mark o' th' land, you have obscur'd
 With a swain's wearing; and me, poor lowly maid,
 Most goddess-like *prank'd* up. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*
 'Tis that miracle, and queen of gems,
 That nature *pranks*, her mind attracts my soul. *Shakespeare.*
 I had not unlock'd my lips
 In this unhallowed air, but that this jugler
 Would think to charm my judgment as mine eyes,
 Obtruding false rules, *prankt* in reason's garb. *Milton.*
PRANK. *n. f.* A frolick; a wild flight; a ludicrous trick; a wicked act.
 Lay home to him;
 Tell him, his *pranks* have been too broad to bear with. *Shakespeare.*
 Such is thy audacious wickedness,
 Thy lewd, pestif'rous and dissolvent *pranks*;
 The very infants prattle of thy pride. *Shakespeare.*
 They caus'd the table to be covered and meat set on, which was no sooner set down, than in came the harpies, and played their accustomed *pranks*. *Raleigh.*
 They put on their cloaths, and played all those *pranks* you have taken notice of. *Addison's Guardian.*
PRA'VE. *n. f.* [πράξιν.] A leek: also a sea weed as green as a leek. *Bailey.*
TO PRATE. *v. n.* [praten, Dutch.] To talk carelessly and without weight; to chatter; to tattle; to be loquacious; to prattle.
 His knowledge or skill is in *prating* too much. *Tulser.*
 Behold me, which owe
 A moiety of the throne, here standing
 To *prate* and talk for life and honour, fore
 Who please to hear. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*
 This starved justice hath *prated* to me of the wildness of his youth, and the feats he hath done about Turnbul-street; and every third word a lie. *Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. ii.*
 After Flammoek and the blacksmith had, by joint and several *pratings*, found tokens of consent in the multitude, they offered themselves to lead them. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
 Oh listen with attentive light
 To what my *prating* eyes induce! *Cleveland.*
 What

PRA

What nonsense would the fool thy master *prate*,
 When thou, his knave, can't talk at such a rate. *Dryden.*
 She first did wit's prerogative remove,
 And made a fool presume to *prate* of love. *Dryden.*
 This is the way of the world; the deaf will *prate* of discords in music. *Watts.*
PRA'VE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Tattle; slight talk; unmeaning loquacity.
 If I talk to him; with his innocent *prate*,
 He will awake my mercy which lies dead. *Shakespeare.*
 Would her innocent *prate* could overcome me;
 Oh! what a conflict do I feel. *Denham's Sophy.*
PRA'TER. *n. f.* [from *prate*.] An idle talker; a chatterer.
 When expectation rages in my blood,
 Is this a time, thou *prater*; hence be gone. *Southern.*
PRA'TINGLY. *adv.* [from *prate*.] With tittle tattle; with loquacity.
PRATTIQUE. *n. f.* [French; *prattica*, Italian.] A licence for the master of a ship to traffick in the ports of Italy upon a certificate, that the place, from whence he came, is not annoyed with any infectious disease. *Bailey.*
TO PRATTLE. *v. n.* [diminutive of *prate*.] To talk lightly; to chatter; to be trivially loquacious.
 But I *prattle*
 Something too wildly, and my father's precepts
 I therein do forget. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*
 What the great ones do, the less will *prattle* of. *Shakespeare.*
 A French woman teaches an English girl to speak and read French, by only *prattling* to her. *Locke.*
 There is not so much pleasure to have a child *prattle* agreeably, as to reason well. *Locke on Education.*
 His tongue, his *prattling* tongue, had chang'd him quite
 To footy blackness, from the purest white. *Ad. Ovid.*
 A little lively ruffick, trained up in ignorance and prejudice, will *prattle* treason a whole evening. *Addison.*
 I must *prattle* on,
 And beg your pardon, yet this half hour.
 Let credulous boys and *prattling* nurses tell,
 How if the festival of Paul be clear,
 Plenty from lib'ral horn shall strow the year. *Gay.*
PRA'TTLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Empty talk; trifling loquacity.
 In a theatre the eyes of men,
 After a well-grac'd actor leaves the stage,
 Are idly bent on him that enters next,
 Thinking his *prattle* to be tedious. *Shakespeare's Rich. II.*
 The bookish theorick,
 Wherein the tog'd confuls can propose
 As masterly as he; mere *prattle*, without practice,
 Is all his soldieriship. *Shakespeare's Othello.*
 The insignificant *prattle* and endless garrulity of the philosophy of the schools. *Glarus.*
PRA'TTLER. *n. f.* [from *prattle*.] A trifling talker; a chatterer.
 Poor *prattler*! how thou talk'st?
Prattler, no more, I say;
 My thoughts must work, but like a noiseless sphere,
 Harmonious peace must rock them all the day;
 No room for *prattlers* there. *Herbert.*
PRA'VITY. *n. f.* [pravitias, Lat.] Corruption; badness; malignity.
 Doubt not but that sin
 Will reign among them, as of thee begot;
 And therefore was law given them, to evince
 Their natural *pravity*. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*
 More people go to the gibbet for want of timely correction, than upon any incurable *pravity* of nature. *L'Estrange.*
 I will shew how the *pravity* of the will could influence the understanding to a disbelief of Christianity. *Southern.*
PRAWN. *n. f.* A small crustaceous fish, like a shrimp, but larger.
 I had *prawns*, and borrowed a mess of vinegar. *Shakespeare.*
TO PRAY. *v. n.* [priere, Fr. *pregare*, Italian.]
 1. To make petitions to heaven.
 I will buy with you, sell will you; but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor *pray* with you. *Shakespeare.*
 Pray for this good man and his issue. *Shakespeare.*
 Ne'er throughout the year to church thou go'st,
 Except it be to *pray* against thy foes. *Shakespeare.*
 I tell him, we shall stay here at the least a month; and he heartily *prays*, some occasion may detain us longer. *Shakespeare.*
 Is any sick? let him call for the elders of the church, and let them *pray* over him. *Jam. v. 14.*
 Unskillful with what words to *pray*, let me
 Interpret for him. *Milton.*
 He that *prays*, despairs not; but sad is the condition of him that cannot *pray*; happy are they that can, and do, and love to do it. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*
 Thou, Turnus, shalt atone it by thy fate,
 And *pray* to heav'n for peace, but *pray* too late. *Dryden.*
 He prais'd my courage, *pray'd* for my success;
 He was so true a father of his country,
 To thank me for defending ev'n his foes. *Dryden.*

PRE

Should you *pray* to God for a recovery, how rash would it be to accuse God of not hearing your prayers, because you found your disease still to continue. *Wake.*
 2. To entreat; to ask submissively.
 You shall find
 A conqueror that will *pray* in aid for kindness,
 Where he for grace is kneel'd to. *Shakespeare.*
 Pray that in towns and temples of renown,
 The name of great Anchises may be known. *Dryden.*
 3. I *PRAY*; that is, I *pray* you to tell me is a slightly ceremonious form of introducing a question.
 But I *pray*, in this mechanical formation, when the ferment was expanded to the extremities of the arteries, why did it not break through the receptacle? *Bentley's Sermons.*
 4. Sometimes only *pray* elliptically.
 Barnard in spirit, sense and truth abounds;
 Pray then what wants he? fourscore thousand pounds. *Pope.*
TO PRAY. *v. a.*
 1. To supplicate; to implore; to address with submissive petitions.
 How much more, if we *pray* him, will his ear
 Be open, and his heart to pity incline? *Milton.*
 2. To ask for as a suppliant.
 He that will have the benefit of this act, must *pray* a prohibition before a sentence in the ecclesiastical court. *A. Cliff.*
 3. To entreat in ceremony or form.
 Pray my colleague Antonius I may speak with him;
 And as you go, call on my brother Quintus,
 And *pray* him with the tribunes to come to me. *B. Johnson.*
PRA'YER. *n. f.* [priere, Fr.]
 1. Petition to heaven.
 They did lay their *prayers*, and address'd them
 Again to sleep. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
 O remember, God!
 O hear her *prayer* for them as now for us. *Shakespeare.*
 Were he as famous and as bold in war,
 As he is fam'd for mildness, peace and *prayer*. *Shakespeare.*
 My heart's desire and *prayer* to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. *Romans x. 1.*
 Sighs now breath'd
 Inutterable, which the spirit of *prayer*
 Inspir'd. *Milton.*
 No man can always have the same spiritual pleasure in his *prayers*; for the greatest saints have sometimes suffered the banishment of the heart, sometimes are fervent, sometimes they feel a barrenness of devotion; for this spirit comes and goes. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*
 2. Entreaty; submissive importunity.
 Prayer among men is supposed a means to change the person to whom we *pray*; but prayer to God doth not change him, but fits us to receive the things prayed for. *Stillington.*
PRA'YERBOOK. *n. f.* [prayer and book.] Book of publick or private devotions.
 Get a *prayerbook* in your hand,
 And stand between two churchmen;
 For on that ground I'll build a holy descent. *Shakespeare.*
 I know not the names or number of the family which now reigns, farther than the *prayerbook* informs me. *Swift.*
PRE. [præ, Lat.] A particle which, prefixed to words derived from the Latin, marks priority of time or rank.
TO PREACH. *v. n.* [predico, Lat. *predicare*, Fr.] To pronounce a publick discourse upon sacred subjects.
 From that time Jesus began to *preach*. *Mat. iv. 17.*
 Prophets *preach* of thee at Jerusalem. *Neb. vi. 7.*
 Divinity would not pass the yard and loom, the forge or anvil, nor *preaching* be taken in as an easier supplementary trade, by those that disliked the pains of their own. *D. of Pie.*
 As he was sent by his father, so were the apostles commissioned by him to *preach* to the gentile world. *D. of Pie.*
 The shape of our cathedral is not proper for our *preaching* auditories, but rather the figure of an amphitheatre with galleries. *Graunt.*
TO PREACH. *v. a.*
 1. To proclaim or publish in religious orations.
 The Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge, that the word of God was *preached* of Paul. *Acts.*
 2. To inculcate publicly; to teach with earnestness.
 There is not any thing publicly notified, but we may properly say it is *preached*. *Hooker.*
 He oft to them *preach'd*
 Conversion and repentance. *Milton.*
 Can they *preach* up equality of birth,
 And tell us how we all began from earth. *Dryden.*
 Huge heaps of slain;
 A good old man while peace he *preach'd* in vain,
 Amidst the madness of th' unruly train. *Dryden.*
PRA'CH. *n. f.* [prediche, Fr. from the verb.] A discourse; a religious oration.
 This oversight occasioned the French spitefully to term religion in that sort exercised, a mere *prach*. *Hooker.*